

Ron's last day as a Simi Valley police officer is tomorrow. He began his career as a Simi Valley police officer fresh out of the academy just 4 years after the city incorporated.

They matured together.

They matured well.

Mr. Speaker, Simi Valley is my home. I served as mayor there for 7 years before being elected to Congress. I am proud of the fact that Simi Valley is routinely recognized as one of the safest cities in the United States. That recognition is in large part due to the caliber of the men and women of the Simi Valley Police Department.

That being true, Ron Lompart is largely responsible for the high caliber of the men and women who serve the Simi Valley Police Department. Ron is responsible for overseeing the training of new officers as one of the department's two Field Training Program Sergeants. He also is a patrol supervisor, overseeing the daily actions of both rookies and veterans alike.

Ron's career parallels his dual dedication to both the City of Simi Valley and the men and women with whom he serves. After 6 years as a patrol officer, Ron was promoted to sergeant in 1981. He served with distinction on the department's SWAT team for 10 years and worked as a Rangemaster and Participative Management Team member. In addition, Ron represented the department's rank-and-file as a board member of both the Simi Valley Police Officers' Association and the Peace Officers Research Association of California.

After 31 years in a police uniform—after 3 years in a U.S. Army uniform—Ron looks forward to spending time as a civilian with his wife, Cindy, and their three children, doing a bit of hunting and perhaps some cruising.

Mr. Speaker, I know my colleagues will join me in thanking my friend Ron Lompart for his decades of service to the City of Simi Valley and his country, and in wishing him Godspeed in his retirement.

HONORING TIM FRIEDMAN

HON. HENRY A. WAXMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 25, 2006

Mr. WAXMAN. Mr. Speaker, we don't recognize often enough the talented and dedicated individuals who are critical to the operations of the House of Representatives. They safeguard our traditions and keep our great institution functioning. Tim Friedman is one of these essential individuals. I can't remember the House of Representatives without him and will miss him when he retires.

Tim arrived in 1976 during my first term in Congress. He has been an invaluable part of the House during his exceptional service. Tim started in the Doorkeeper's Office and then worked as an Assistant to the Sergeant of Arms. But I'm sure most of my colleagues, like me, remember his work in the Democratic Cloakroom best.

Tim has put the institution of the House first and has done all he can to help Members and staff do their jobs the best way possible. Now it's time for him and his wife Colleen to take a well-deserved break and play golf the best way possible. And, although their new home will be North Carolina, they'll keep an eye to

the north and spend a good amount of their time off the links cheering the New York Yankees and Buffalo Bills on to greatness.

We will miss Tim greatly and will remain indebted to him for making the House of Representatives a better institution.

STEM CELL RESEARCH ENHANCEMENT ACT OF 2005—VETO MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES (H. DOC. NO. 109-127)

SPEECH OF

HON. PATRICK J. KENNEDY

OF RHODE ISLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 19, 2006

Mr. KENNEDY of Rhode Island. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to express my extreme disappointment with the President's decision to use his veto power to reject the Congress's will to see H.R. 810, the Stem Cell Research Enhancement Act, become public law, and I stand in support of millions of Americans who will benefit from the promises of embryonic stem cell research. Each year, I meet several hundred, perhaps thousands, of constituents who share with me how Federal support of embryonic stem cell research could vastly change their lives. There are a few constituents in particular who stand out on this issue. Late last year, Maddie and Tommy Poulin, just 4 and 5 years old, traveled from Rhode Island to Washington. These two young children talked with me about what their life is like with Type I Diabetes. In a journal they left with me, Maddie included an entry that said, "I really hope you can help us find a cure, we're not asking for a lot, we just want to live without needles."

Stem cell research also holds promise for those suffering from Parkinson's disease, like my good friend, and the distinguished Senator from Rhode Island, Claiborne Pell. Senator Pell's contributions to our country are too numerous to list, but I know his legacy is honored everyday when individuals are able to attend college with the assistance of a Pell Grant. He stood up for those without a voice for over 35 years, and now it is time for us to stand up for him.

Sue Sgambato, a cancer survivor living in Rhode Island, visits my office regularly to advocate on behalf of patients in our State. Rhode Island has one of the highest rates of cancer in the Nation, and stem cell research may provide clues on how to beat this devastating disease. I cannot and will not stand by and let one more person be diagnosed with cancer, Alzheimer's, Lou Gehrig's disease, or multiple sclerosis without holding the President responsible for his action today.

It is absolutely tragic that President Bush has used his very first and only veto on an issue of such importance to American families. Every family in America has a loved one who is suffering from a disease that could benefit from the advances of stem cell research. This veto is only the latest action that President Bush has taken against medical research. He has also level funded the National Institutes of Health, and cut programs at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), limiting our Nation's ability to find better treatments and cures for diseases.

President Bush had a choice today, and he chose politics over people. I want to assure my friends in Congress, as well as the people of the First District of Rhode Island, that today's veto is not the end to this debate, it is only the beginning. Congress has voted overwhelmingly in support of stem cell research, and this bill remains a top priority for a majority of elected officials. I promise that I will continue to do everything within my power to get this legislation back to the President's desk, and to get this language into our public law. We will be back, and we will succeed.

TRIBUTE TO SARAH JORDAN-HOLMES

HON. JIM DAVIS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 25, 2006

Mr. DAVIS of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise in honor of Sarah Jordan-Holmes, an incredibly gifted leader and fundraiser who put her talents, her heart and her faith into improving our community.

As President and CEO of Prevent Blindness Florida for 15 years, Sarah raised millions of dollars, won over countless supporters for its mission and brought national attention to the organization. Through her work, Prevent Blindness Florida earned Tampa Bay Business Journal's "Non-Profit of the Year Award" in the area of Health Services, and Sarah earned the Association of Fundraising Professionals Lifetime Achievement Award.

Prevent Blindness Florida was not the only worthy cause that was blessed to count Sarah as an advocate. She led fundraising campaigns for the Florida Museum of Science and Industry, the YMCA and the University of South Florida. In addition, Sarah was active in a host of other local community, charitable and professional organizations.

Sarah's tireless work on behalf of the organizations she championed was deeply rooted in her faith and dedication to serve others. She served as a senior warden and vestry member of the St. James House of Prayer Episcopal Church, president of the board of trustees for the Southwest Florida Episcopal Church Foundation, member of the Diocesan Standing Committee and participant in the Cursillo Movement.

It is no surprise that Sarah was so successful in her lifetime. She was a natural leader, a role model for everyone she met and a genuine go-getter. Sarah's faith and inner strength helped guide her through her long struggle with cancer—a challenge she faced with great dignity. During her lifetime, cut short by cancer, Sarah lived life to its fullest and gave to her family, friends and thousands of others to a point few people achieve in their lifetimes. Her powerful example will inspire many in our community and state for generations.

Among all her accomplishments, Sarah was most proud of her role as wife and mother. I would like to extend my deepest sympathies to her family for their loss. May they find comfort in Sarah's legacy—her contributions to our community will not be forgotten.